

**Department of Transportation
Project No. 157-83
Replacement of Bridge No. 01023
Route 57 over West Branch of the Saugatuck River
Town of Weston**

**Thursday, February 27, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.
Weston Town Hall Meeting Room
56 Norfield Road
Weston, Connecticut**

Minutes

Present:

Timothy D. Fields - Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Mary E. Baker - CTDOT
Steve DiGiovanna - CTDOT District 3 Engineer
Andrew Lessard - Stantec Consulting Services (Stantec)
John Eberle - Stantec
Michael Woods - Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C. (CJM)
John Conte - Weston Town Engineer
Lieutenant Thomas Conlan - Wilton Police Department
Todd Bucaro – Manager, Cobbs Mill Inn
6 Local Residents

Presentation:

A presentation was delivered by Ms. Mary Baker from CTDOT, Mr. Michael Woods from CJM and Mr. Andrew Lessard of Stantec. The following items were included in the presentation:

- The existing bridge is a single span concrete arch structure with a clear span of 24 feet and a curb-to-curb roadway width of 31 feet. The bridge is in need of replacement due to the deteriorated condition of the concrete arch walls.
- The proposed replacement utilizes an innovative bridge design called "Bridge-in-a-Backpack" which consists of prefabricated fiber reinforced polymer tubes filled with concrete topped with metal sheathing and concrete. Ballast material is placed on the concrete to the elevations required for the roadway. The arch will be supported by precast footings on both rock and micropiles. The clear span length will increase to 40 feet and the curb-to-curb width will increase to 34 feet. Approximately 200 feet of Route 57 will be reconstructed and the intersection of Route 57 and Old Mill Road will be reconstructed as a result of this project.
- There are no Rights-of-Way and minimal utility impacts anticipated for this project.
- Construction will be performed using a 1 - 2 month roadway closure at the site. Old Mill Road intersection is currently planned to be closed during the detour. Single stage construction minimizes the construction duration and does not require maintaining traffic on a partially demolished arch. The proposed detour utilizes State Routes 53, 7, and 33.

- Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits are required for this project.
- The estimated construction cost is approximately \$2,250,000.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2015.

Public Comments and Questions:

Town Engineer John Conte opened discussion by asking that the town project on Godfrey Road, planned to be in construction Spring/Summer of 2014, be completed before the start of this project. He stated that local residents will likely use Godfrey Road to navigate around the project site during the detour period.

CTDOT anticipates construction will start in the Spring of 2015. The goal is to prevent multiple projects from detouring traffic simultaneously. Further coordination is needed within the Department to determine the schedules of this project and State Project No. 157-84, a highway project on Route 53 approximately 2.5 miles north of this project.

A local resident and owner of Cobbs Mill Inn asked if Old Mill Road needed to be closed during the detour period. He said that by closing the road for 1-2 months would negatively impact his business. He requested that road remain open at all times.

CTDOT and Stantec said that they would look into leaving the roadway open for local access only. The roadway was initially designed to be closed at the request of Town officials who emphasized that this local road could not accommodate the additional traffic from the detoured state route.

Another resident applauded the accommodation of wider shoulders for bicycle traffic. He noted that parts of Route 53 and Route 57 are designated bike routes. He asked if the roadway width could be striped to delineate a narrower lane with wider shoulders whereby the lane striping would match the existing striping patterns in the area. He said that the narrower lanes slow vehicular traffic and make for safer bicycle travel.

CTDOT noted that the goal of the CTDOT is to accommodate wider shoulders for bicycle traffic where appropriate. For this project, 5-foot shoulders were provided. The ability to narrow the proposed travel lane from 12 feet to 11 feet at the site will be investigated.

The last question asked by a local resident was regarding the order of the Town and State projects. She had seen a Public Information Meeting regarding State Project No. 157-84, which has a similar proposed schedule and knew about the Godfrey Road bridge project.

CTDOT responded by saying the Town project is to be completed in 2014 and that the state projects would need additional coordination. The state projects, both of which utilize a state route detour, would not detour traffic simultaneously. A final determination of construction schedules would be made as the design for both projects progresses.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.